

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (HA) PROGRAM

Mission: DoD humanitarian assistance activities were first authorized by Congress in 1986, essentially to transport DoD excess non-lethal property and privately donated humanitarian assistance and relief material to countries in need. In FY 1996, DoD was permitted to fund a wider variety of HA activities, including using contracts and deployment of U.S. military personnel to conduct specific humanitarian projects. 10 U.S.C. section 2561 authorizes the program and the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) Appropriation, managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, funds approved projects.

Typical projects include the refurbishment of medical facilities, construction of school buildings, digging of wells, improvement of sanitary facilities, and training of host country personnel in internally displaced persons/refugee repatriation operations and in disaster relief and emergency response planning. The involvement of the military geographical commanders has been key to the design and execution of the projects and the success of the program.

DSCA Responsibilities: Advises the USD (P) in all program management and execution matters relating to overseas humanitarian assistance activities. DSCA also manages all programs funded by the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation.

HDM Responsibilities:

- Responsible to the Director for Programs, DSCA for operational responsibility and execution of the worldwide DoD HAP.
- Implements and oversees the geographical commanders' management of DoD humanitarian programs and activities authorized by statute and for which funds are authorized and appropriated.
- Provide annual planning guidance to the geographical commanders by October 1 of each year for the following fiscal year and, review/approve their plans no later than the next July in coordination with OASD (SO/LIC) and other offices/agencies as required..
- Responsible for justification, funds control, allocation and oversight of the OHDACA appropriation.
- In conjunction with ASD SO/LIC staff and the interagency, develops or reviews combatant command and other DoD and US Government agency 'out-of-cycle' proposals and provides approval. Coordinates the execution of the project with relevant DoD and non-DoD participants.
- Responds to requests for information or guidance on HAP program management issues.
- HDM prepares the annual report to Congress required by 10USC2561.